



# Arkansas Department of Education

*Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education*

March 9, 2017

**Johnny Key**  
*Commissioner*

Dear Superintendents,

**State Board  
of Education**

**Mireya Reith**  
*Fayetteville  
Chair*

The Arkansas Department of Education is accepting nominations for the 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year (ATOY). As part of the National Teacher of the Year program, the ATOY program identifies, recognizes and utilizes representatives of excellent teaching in the elementary and secondary classrooms in Arkansas public schools – educators who go above and beyond to truly make a difference in the lives of students as well as in their school, district and community.

**Dr. Jay Barth**  
*Little Rock  
Vice Chair*

The State Board of Education has experienced the value of having an educator serve on the State Board, and we encourage every district to select one teacher as its District Teacher of the Year and nominate that teacher for the ATOY.

**Joe Black**  
*Newport*

**Susan Chambers**  
*Bella Vista*

A panel assembled by the ADE will review applications and select 16 regional finalists - one representing each education service cooperative and one representing Pulaski County. The panel will select four state semi-finalists from the regional finalists.

**Charisse Dean**  
*Little Rock*

**Dr. Fitz Hill**  
*Little Rock*

**Ouida Newton**  
*Poyen*

For more information about the nomination process, see **Commissioners Memo COM-17-042** <http://adecm.arkansas.gov/ViewApprovedMemo.aspx?Id=2164>.

**R. Brett Williamson**  
*El Dorado*

The State Board is very proud of Arkansas teachers. Please help us recognize our outstanding educators. We look forward to receiving many applications!

**Diane Zook**  
*Melbourne*

Respectfully,  
Arkansas State Board Members

Mireya Rieth, Chair

Dr. Jay Barth, Vice-Chair

Joe Black

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Diane Zook

Susan Chambers

Charisse Dean

*An Equal  
Opportunity  
Employer*

Brett Williamson

Dr. Fitz Hill

Ouida Newton